

His interest in Asia, ignited when military service took him to China in 1922, was bolstered by academic credentials from what is now The University of Montana in Missoula. Elected to the House of Representatives in 1942 and the Senate in 1952, he was a leading Asia expert in Congress and went on to become the longest-serving U.S. ambassador to Japan. Maureen Mansfield not only supported Mike's career, she inspired it. For this reason, the Foundation established by Congress to honor Mike begins with Maureen's name.

Maureen and Mike Mansfield's values, ideals and vision for U.S.-Asia relations continue through the exchanges, dialogues and publications of the Mansfield Foundation. For 25 years the Foundation has helped create networks among U.S. and Asian leaders, explored the underlying issues influencing public policies, and increased awareness about the nations and peoples of Asia.

A centerpiece of the Foundation's work is the Mansfield Fellowship Program, established by Congress in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. Federal Government officials with substantial Japan experience. Each year this government-to-government exchange allows a select group of Federal employees to gain proficiency in the Japanese language and practical experience working in the Japanese government. Since the Fellowships were established, 86 Fellows from 22 U.S. agencies and departments have entered the program.

The Foundation is also instrumental in a number of other programs.

The Mansfield Congressional Study Tour in Asia is a program that has provided opportunities for Senators and their staff to develop an authoritative understanding of Asia through meetings with government officials, business leaders, and NGO representatives in major cities and rural areas. To date, the Foundation has led 11 senatorial study trips to approximately 30 cities in China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam.

The Foundation and the Center recently cosponsored the 24th annual Mansfield Conference, which addressed a timely and critical issue—the security implications of climate change in Asia.

The Mansfield Foundation was established in 1983 with a single focus and mission—to promote understanding and cooperation in U.S.-Asia relations. I believe both Mike and Maureen would be proud of all the Mansfield Foundation has done to advance that goal in the last 25 years.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE CALIFORNIA REINVESTMENT COALITION AND ITS HONORING OF FOUR COMMUNITY HEROES

#### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on October 2, 2008, the California Reinvestment Coalition, an organization that works to bring financial and housing services to low-income communities, will be honoring four community heroes for their efforts in making homeownership and financial independence a reality for many of Sacramento's residents. These heroes are:

Elaine Abelaye of Asian Resources Inc., Ken Cross of Sacramento Habitat for Humanity, Mike Himes of NeighborWorks Sacramento, and Ron Javor of the California Department of Housing and Community Development. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these distinguished individuals.

Elaine Abelaye has demonstrated true leadership and commitment to the social, community and economic development needs of low-income individuals and families in Sacramento. Her leadership has led to the development of the Dare to Dream Entrepreneurship Development and Financial Literacy Education programs for the local Hmong and Vietnamese communities. Elaine has shown true dedication to providing multiple services needed in the Sacramento area. She has truly empowered community members to become a vital part of our changing and diverse society.

Ken Cross has substantially increased production of housing for very low-income households in Sacramento. Under Ken's leadership, Sacramento Habitat for Humanity runs the ReStore, a building material recycler that sells second-hand and donated building materials. He has also been a strong advocate in promoting the policies that produce affordable and inclusionary housing. Ken's personal approach makes him a great advocate for Sacramento's neediest families.

Mike Himes has demonstrated his dedication to helping families achieve successful, long-term homeownership. When the foreclosure crisis began to pound on the door of the region, Mike and his colleagues at NeighborWorks Sacramento led the way to create and promote many different collaborative relationships to assist borrowers. Mike is a smart, patient and outstanding individual who deserves recognition for his many personal and professional contributions. His expertise, strong principles and commitment are shown each time he helps a family.

Ron Javor has worked tirelessly for decades within state government and the community to improve access to safe, affordable and accessible housing for lower-income households. Ron has worked consistently to develop and improve state programs that serve the neediest Californians. As a community activist, he helped found the Sacramento Housing Alliance and serves on many local nonprofit boards. He has been a strong voice in local efforts to ensure that local governments meet their obligations to adequately serve the homeless and lower-income households.

Madam Speaker, because of the efforts of the California Reinvestment Coalition and community leaders like Elaine Abelaye, Ken Cross, Mike Himes, and Ron Javor, low-income communities and communities of color have access to fair and equal housing, banking and other financial services. It is my sincere hope the coalition and the outstanding people noted today will continue to serve the people of Sacramento for many years to come, and mentor the next generation of community leaders.

#### OAKLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: A LEGACY OF 150 YEARS

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 29, 2008*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Oakland Presbyterian Church in the Cleveland community of North Carolina as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Oakland Presbyterian Church is the oldest Presbyterian church in Johnston County, North Carolina, and is an important institution in the region.

Local residents, Mr. John McLean and Mrs. Sarah Sanders, first gathered worshippers under an old brush shelter about a mile from the present location on land that was then known as Finch Place. On Saturday, August 7, 1858, Oakland was officially organized into a Presbyterian Church by representatives of Orange Presbytery with a congregation of six charter members. The very next day, the congregation elected John W. Hodges as its first elder and the Reverend T.B. Neal was installed as the first pastor on October 30, 1858.

The land for the church was donated by Mrs. Sanders, and because the property was shaded by a stand of oak trees, it seemed natural for the congregation to choose Oakland for its name. Despite expansion and renovation, Oakland Church continues to worship at its original site, across from the old Cleveland School building where I attended school. The Oakland grounds encompass the Oakland Church Cemetery, which was established with the church and continues to serve the community. While tradition is strong here, there are also new additions. In 1972, church members contributed stones to build the "Cairn of Remembrance," "in memory of all who worshiped at this hallowed place since its founding in 1858," as its dedicatory plaque reads. The stone monument, common in the Scottish Highlands, connects Oakland to its Presbyterian spiritual roots in Scotland.

The congregation has been blessed by outstanding pastoral leadership, which continues today with its current pastor, Dr. Stephen E. Aschmann, a native of Richmond, Virginia. Among the many notable church leaders was Dr. Drury Lacy II, former president of Davidson College, who performed the marriage ceremony for "Stonewall" Jackson and his bride Mary Anna Morrison. Another of the congregation's early ministers was Dr. Benjamin Rice Lacy, Jr., who was elected to serve as the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the most honored office in the denomination. Dr. Lacy also served for many years as president of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

From the beginning, Oakland has also been guided by strong and progressive lay leadership. In 1969, Mrs. Gladys E. Barber and Miss Elizabeth Talton made history when they became the first women to be elected and ordained as deacons. Later in 1975, Mrs. Barber was ordained as the congregation's first female elder.

Oakland has a tradition of emphasizing service, mission, outreach, and education. In recent years the congregation has enjoyed